

Annual Report

OF THE

HEALTH

OF THE

PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT


FOR THE YEAR 1908,

BY

S. BUTLER MASON, M.R.C.P.,

&c., &c.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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Jan 30. 1909

Denham House,
Pontypool.

To the Pontypool Urban Sanitary Authority.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,—

For the thirty-first time it becomes necessary for me to send you an annual report on the sanitary district under your control. This report deals with your area for the twelve months ending December 31st, 1908. The description of area and configuration are the same as I have had occasion to detail on other occasions, inasmuch as there has been no alteration of the district either in form or expansion.

Description of Area.

It lies upon the carboniferous system, or more particularly the millstone grit, or farewell rock, or the lower portion of the true coal measures, and forms the eastern outcrop of the South Wales coal-field. The strata dip or slope about three inches per yard in a south-westerly direction.

Configuration.

The surface of the district is extremely irregular and hilly, and lies to the north of Trosnant Brook and mainly to the west of the Avon Llwyd River. It comprises the angular portion of land formed by the above-named streams. The ground rises or slopes up in a northerly, north-westerly, and westerly direction from the before-mentioned streams, and lies at an elevation of from 400ft. to 700ft. above the mean sea level, and comprises an area of 234 acres.

I have on several occasions pointed out to you the great need of extending your area, and the necessity still exists. The population is steadily increasing, and open spaces are being caught up by the builder. The coal industry being still in a flourishing state in districts around yours, brings many strangers into your district in search of employment—persons of all nationalities and shades of colour, and it is a most difficult matter to house them, except in the common lodging-houses and in those houses that are occupied by young married

people, or in the houses of persons whose circumstances compel them to take in lodgers, and this often leads to overcrowding and immoralities which are in no way salutary, and which would not happen if your area was extended and more sites for building suitable houses available. Considerably more persons would live in Pontypool if suitable residences could be found for them, and by the loss of population your financial condition is decreased, and money that would come into your district goes elsewhere.

Your district is not wholly taken up by residents connected with collieries—ironworkers, tinplate-workers, and employés of the steelworks industries make their home in it. These are all healthy trades, and, as a rule, men so employed earn good wages. Very few retired persons settle in your district. The bulk of your population is tradesmen and their assistants, or persons engaged in commerce. The neighbourhood around Pontypool being so very attractive to the labouring classes in consequence of employment being easily obtainable, persons from all parts of the country come here, and Pontypool being a well-known market town, they naturally wish first of all to settle down in it, but, as I have said previously, that accommodation being so scarce they move on to another district. I have suggested in previous reports that certain parts of your area could be swept away, notably, High-street in the neighbourhood of the Mason's Arms, with immense benefit to the district, and in the place of the insanitary hovels at present there, some good substantial lodging-houses, on the flat system, built and controlled by the sanitary authority. I am sure such an investment would be a profitable one, and a great eyesore and danger in your area would be removed. At present, in this High-street neighbourhood all the degraded characters from other towns locate themselves periodically, and vice and drunkenness go hand-in-hand freely. The whole of this part of your district should be swept away. As regards site and salubrity, no place could be better fitted for flats or Peabody buildings; the elevation is excellent, and plenty of fresh air is always playing around. There are other parts of your area that could be similarly dealt with, but the one I name is the worst, and it would be as well to begin there. You can readily understand that persons roaming about—especially females—in a promiscuous way spread disease, and such unmen-

tionable diseases that sap the very foundation of the health of the youth of your district. These persons spread infectious disease over which your officers have no control, and the effects of the same are only too often brought to the notice of the Medical Man when the damage is past repair ; and the Medical Officer of Health is obliged to stand idly by and is powerless to interfere. These contagious disorders, instead of being lessened by the march of education and scientific discovery, are more rife in your district than they were twenty years ago, and the effects are more apparent. An effort is being made by the Poor Law Authorities to deal with Tuberculosis of the Lungs by Notification, but I feel certain that efforts should be made to stamp out the venereal diseases that infest the country, and which are so productive to misery in parent and offspring, even more so than Tubercular affections, which are most evident in the sufferer ; but the diseases to which I allude are transmitted to the third or fourth generation, and to a great extent account for the weedy miserable specimens of humanity seen about. I am aware that you have no power to revive the Contagious Diseases Act, but you could so improve your house accommodation as to lessen the holes and corners in which conveyors of disease lurk.

Your system of sewage is practically the same as it was when I reported last—the sewage of your district still finds its way into the Afon Llwyd river. An improvement has been made in the sewerage, inasmuch as all main drains in Clarence-street and Mill-road are now pipe drains. All old box drains are swept away ; the last of these in Clarence-street and Mill-road have been effectually dealt with. I must still revert to the system of sewerage adopted in the Western Valley. I am still of opinion that the trunk system is the best for all time, and although your area is but a small unit among the several districts in the Eastern Valley, I should strongly recommend you to adopt the tunnel scheme if the question again arises ; and my reason for thinking so, and for advising you, is that once the sewage gets into the tunnel it is swept away to the outlet and creates no nuisance or expense, whereas the various systems of sewage treatment requires constant supervision and constant outlay, and I am not convinced that any of them are perfect.

All the districts in the Eastern Valley are polluting the Afon Llwyd river with their sewage, and I

am given to understand that there are fissures in the bed of the river through which the water percolates and consequently follows the strata and gets into the springs, resulting in occasional outbreaks of enteric fever, and probably diarrhoea. The disposal of refuse should be seriously considered; the old-fashioned system of tipping is fraught with great danger, and could easily be supplanted by a destructor; the combined neighbouring Boards could easily support a destructor between them.

I have received no complaints during the year under review respecting quantity or quality of the water supplied to the district. I have had the water analysed on two occasions, and it was found to be free from all suspicious impurities, and well suited for domestic and drinking purposes.

The Death Rate.

During the year under review 86 persons at all ages died in your district, viz., 47 males and 39 females, giving a general death rate of 13·4 per 1,000 of the estimated population. I estimated your population for the purpose of calculating these rates as 6,382. A certain number of persons were sent out of your district to the Union Infirmary, which is in the Panteg district. Of these, nine died; the probability is that they would have died in your authority had they not been removed; consequently they have to be reckoned as deaths belonging to your area. This will bring the number of deaths in the Pontypool Urban District up to 95, and will give a corrected death rate of 14·8 per 1,000 per annum of the estimated population. This death rate is the lowest that your district has had for six years, when in 1902 it was 13·1; 1903, 16·4; 1904, 18·5; 1905, 17·3; 1906, 17·2; 1907, 17·6. These are all corrected death rates. The average death rate for the past 10 years works out as 16·7. This is anything but an excessive death rate, and I think the Council may feel that, considering that scarlatina and whooping cough have been present the whole year, that the rate is a very satisfactory one. I was feeling up to December that I should have some pleasure in recording a diminished infantile death rate for the past 12 months, but the last month of the year cut away my hopes, the terrible amount of sickness, particularly among young children, and that sickness being mostly some acute affection of the chest, caused so many fatalities in these frail subjects that it increased the infant mortality in a very dis-

appointing way. During the year, 23 children died under 1 year old, giving a death rate per 1,000 born of 116·1; this is not very high, and nothing like what it has been, but it is higher than I like. The average infantile death rate for the past 10 years per 1,000 registered births is 159·0; the same rate of infant mortality for 1907 was 106·7; and the year immediately preceding it was 165·7, and for years before that it was quite as high and even higher. To my mind it looks as though the instruction given to mothers as to proper feeding and care during the lactation period was being understood and carried out. I find on going round my daily work that there is a desire on the part of the mother to suckle her child, and when that natural supply of food fails, they do in most instances try to supply as suitable a substitute as possible. It is most essential that mothers should thoroughly understand the desirability of all infants being breast-fed. No artificial food yet has been discovered that can take the place of the mother's milk, but if from ill-health of the mother or other causes the natural supply fails, then the mother should consult her medical attendant as to the best substitute. Feeding cards to meet such event are supplied by your Council, and I find that they are appreciated, and prove very useful. The Queen's Jubilee nurse that works in your district is a great help in instructing mothers in the proper management of their offspring, and the new properly trained midwife is another force working in the same direction. I believe that in the years to come a great saving of infant life will be made by the properly trained midwife; it is already to be observed, and my only regret is that more of these useful women are not at hand. One of the chief things a good nurse or midwife is taught is to be clean, to keep herself—clothes and body—clean, and also that of her patient. There are so many degrees of cleanliness that it is very difficult to make the ordinary person understand what a medical man means by being clean, and this is a subject that could very well be taught to both sexes in our Board Schools. Children are taught physical drill there, which I consider good, but if they had the rudiments of cleanliness well grounded into their minds, I believe it would be of immense benefit.

The Birth Rate.

During 1908, 198 children were born in your district, viz., 88 males and 110 females. The birth rate

was 31.1 per 1,000 per annum of the estimated population. The birth rate is looking up—last year it was 28.0, 1906 it was 29.5—so that, with a diminishing death rate and a higher birth rate and a lessened infant mortality, your district should be considered doing very well. Twenty-three of the 198 infants born to your district died before arriving at one year of age, so that your gain is 175; but if the 95 altogether that died belonging to your area are deducted, you really have 103 to be added to your population.

The Local Government Board require four tables filled up, and they are detailed at the end of this report, viz. :—

Table I.—Vital statistics of the whole district during 1908 and previous years ;

Table III.—Cases of infectious disease notified during the year 1908 ;

Table IV.—Causes of and ages at death during the year 1908 ;

Table V.—Infantile mortality during the year 1908.

Table III. gives the number of cases of notified disease as 56. This will give a zymotic disease rate of 8.7 per 1,000 per annum of the estimated population. Last year it was 7.5 per 1,000. There has been but two deaths from notifiable diseases, viz., scarlatina one, erysipelas one ; therefore, the zymotic disease death rate is 0.3 per 1,000 per annum of the estimated population. That is a very small figure indeed. The diseases notified were :—Diphtheria (including membranous croup), 3 ; erysipelas, 5 ; scarlatina, 43 ; enteric fever, 3 ; puerperal fever, 2 ; total, 56.

Diphtheria.

There was one case of diphtheria in January which occurred in a very damp house ; one of membranous croup in September, the victim being the child of a tramp and subject to exposure and the vitiated atmosphere of lodging-houses ; and a case of diphtheria in December. The cause of the latter is quite unknown to me. The eldest of the three cases was two and a-half years, and the other two 19 and 11 months respectively. They all recovered. This disease—diphtheria and membranous croup (I regard them as one disease)—appears to be increasing of late years, although your district has fortunately been singularly free from serious outbreaks. The year immediately preceding had four cases notified.

Erysipelas.

This disease was notified five times, one case terminating fatally. One case occurred in June, two September, one October, and one November. The case in June proved fatal. Three out of the other four cases were of a ^{trans}transm^{ic} origin, and the fifth case was a very mild one, and probably the result of a chill.

Scarlatina, or Scarlet Fever,

both names being used to denote the same disease. You will see by Table III. that 43 cases of this disease have been notified during the year, one proving fatal. The disease has been smouldering along during the whole 12 months, and at no time reaching the proportions of an epidemic. January was the only month in which there was no notification. The disease was of a mild type, and I believe many cases happened that we never heard of in consequence of the mildness of the symptoms. The number per month of notifications I will give:—February, 4; March, 2; April, 2; May, 7; June, 6; July, 5; August, 6; September, 2; October, 4; November, 3; December, 2. In most cases, the rash has been very transient, so that, probably, children have gone to school with the disease, and this has accounted for the long continuance of the outbreak.

Enteric Fever.

There has been three cases of this disease, and I am strongly inclined to believe that all the cases took the infection away from home. After every enquiry, I failed to discover any source of the disease in your district. Two of the cases were men working in the Town Forge, and the third a tradesman living in the town. All recovered.

Puerperal Fever.

This disease was notified twice. This is essentially produced by dirt. One case was very seriously ill; her surroundings were very insanitary. The other case was very mild, and soon recovered. The midwife was suspended from attendance on any case of midwifery for a fortnight, and all precautions taken, so that no further case occurred. They both recovered. In respect to puerperal sepsis, the nurse or midwife is often suspected and blamed, but this is not always right, for lying-in women often do very silly things, and bring about disaster. The suspending of a midwife is not always because she is suspected, but it is to give her an opportunity to free herself from any germs of the disease she may have contracted while attending the case notified.

Measles.

This disease has not given much trouble. A few cases have occurred, but there has been no cases requiring any special sanitary precautions being taken.

Whooping Cough.

This troublesome affection of the respiratory organs has been lingering about the whole year and, although no death was certified as directly due to it, yet it was the forerunner of several. It was the starting-point of many cases of broncho-pneumonia, several of which terminated fatally.

Tubercular Diseases.

Phthisis, or pulmonary consumption as it is popularly known, proved fatal in eight cases in your area, and three that were removed to the Union Infirmary from your district; this is about the usual number; the year preceding it was seven. A sanatorium for the county should be provided, so that cases in the early stage should be properly treated. It is utterly impossible to treat such cases in an ordinary infirmary—and sending pauper cases to the Union Infirmary is simply providing them with a home till the fatal result comes about, and all the time they are there they are a common danger. The Local Government Board have issued instructions to district and union medical officers for an elaborate system of notifications, but I very much doubt the value of the trouble ordered to be taken without the proper mode of treating the cases when notified; it is absolutely impossible to get the general public to take the necessary precautions so essential to success, and further, the Local Government's orders are confined to paupers, this only touches the fringe of the subject. Notification of phthisis should be general, and at the same time a place provided for special treatment—then, and only then, can a semblance of success be expected from well-directed efforts. It is well that I should again warn all persons suffering, and all those having the care of consumptive persons, to see that they sleep in a large airy room with windows open on the leese of the apartment, and with no other person in the same bed, that all expectoration being ejected into a spitting-cup containing a disinfectant, preferably chlorox, which is afterwards burnt, and that no other person uses the same handkerchief or any drinking utensil after the patient, and that suitable diet, as ordered by the medical attendant, be strictly adhered to, and it is only by the very

careful observation of these rules that any successful issue can be expected, and the inmates of the house protected.

Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.

I group these chest affections, as they most often go together, especially the two former. Twenty-one fatal cases of bronchitis and pneumonia occurred during the year in your district, and three in the Union Infirmary; eight occurred under one year of age. These diseases are most disastrous to young children, especially those who have not the comforts of good houses and suitable clothing. The month of December brought about a perfect epidemic of chest affections in children, and was accountable for eight fatalities; persons at both extremes of life are placed in great jeopardy when assailed by these chest affections.

Influenza.

This scourge has been cropping up all the year. Directly there is a variation of temperature in the atmosphere, influenza in some form or other makes its appearance. In January and February it was very epidemic, and several deaths occurred through its agency, and many persons debilitated by it for a long time.

Queen Victoria's Jubilee Nurses.

Local

Whilst discussing the various diseases that have best your inhabitants during the period I am reviewing, I cannot refrain from paying a tribute of thanks to the valuable assistance of Miss Sykes, and afterwards Miss Law, as representatives of the above-named body. These nurses have attended in your district 48 patients and made 1624 visits. This is a good record and means a lot of work considering they have to attend an area outside yours, which I do not reckon. The great fallacy is the fact that the Queen's Nurses cannot take cases of infectious disease, such as scarlatina, diphtheria, &c., the very cases one often wants a reliable nurse to carry out the treatment. A district nurse to take infectious diseases would be a great boon, and one such nurse could take not only your area but other areas as well. I have recommended this before, and should be glad to see such an appointment made. The district nurse by her training can help mothers in the management of their children, and correct many errors of diet and clothing. The present district

nurses do this ; they also act informally as sanitary inspectors, and bring to the notice of your officers defects that might go unnoticed.

Isolation Hospital.

I have dwelt on the need of an isolation hospital before, and shall be glad if the Council will consider this subject. There is a great and growing need for such an institution, and my impression is that the general public are daily seeing the benefits of hospitals where they can send their sick, especially in the case of infectious diseases occurring in a family. I should like an hospital for your district alone, and I hope it will soon be considered. It is absolutely useless to expect complete isolation of infectious diseases in ordinary cottages.

The Water Supply.

I have had no complaint of any deficiency in the supply during 1908. I have caused the Pontypool Gas and Water Company's water to be analysed twice during the year, and I am glad to say it was found good for drinking and domestic uses. Now that the Council's action against the Pontypool Gas and Water Company for damages arising out of the typhoid epidemic of 1905 has been settled, it is important to see that the future is better equipped than has been the case in the past in the matter of a pure water supply.

Filtration.

I learn that as one result of this action, and on the intervention of the Attorney-General, the Water Company have installed at various points on their system Bell's patent filters. The working and effects of these require careful observation in the consumers' interests. The chief advantages of this type of filter appear to be the ease and simplicity in manipulation, small space occupied, rapidity of flow, and general independence of gradients, whereby loss of head to mains, so frequent a feature where gravity beds are in use, is avoided. The chief objection to this class of filter appears to be a risk of concretions and stoppages in mains arising from the use of coagulants like alumina. Experts on this subject do not consider this a practical disability, but it is an argument which has been advanced against their use.

Fresh Sources of Supply.

I am glad to notice that (doubtless owing to pressure brought by the local Sanitary Authorities

for some years past) the Water Company are now moving for Parliamentary powers to increase their works, and make better provision for the public needs. Several of the new conditions now put forward seem to be a distinct improvement upon the old state of things.

Summary Remedy.

The new clause by which the Water Company are in future to give to your Council summary remedies before the justices for any impurity or inadequacy of supply, will strengthen the hands of your medical and sanitary officers, and will be most useful in maintaining a sufficient supply, the absence of any such powers in the past having been greatly felt.

Constant Pressure.

As regards the supply, it is satisfactory also to see that the Company undertake in future, not only to filter all present and new supplies, but also to maintain a "constant pressure" supply in your district (in place of the intermittent and often deficient supply of the past) whenever obtainable by gravitation. As the highest point of altitude to be served in your area is only 700 feet above the sea level, and the reservoirs (Cwmavon and Nantymailor) now serving your district are respectively 887 and 820 feet, while the proposed new reservoir at Cwmlickey will be over 900 feet above sea level, there should be no question that gravitation will in your area give a satisfactory "constant pressure" supply; but it is essential, I think, to this end, that the Company should be compelled to keep in their reservoirs thus serving your area a proper and adequate *minimum* of water, to give the necessary pressure, and insure you in the driest seasons against a shortage of supply.

New Reservoir.

As to the capacity of the new reservoir at Cwmlickey, which I notice is put at 10 million gallons, with a suggestion of some increase later, I consider this should not be less than a guaranteed 20 millions, having in view the future needs of the district and the fact that the Company contemplates supplying outside areas in bulk.

Quality of New Water.

The quality of the new water should be carefully tested, and if at all of a peaty nature, its effects on the pipes in your area duly provided for.

Inspection of Works.

The clause forbidding the Company to sell any water out of the present area if it would in any way interfere with your "constant pressure" supply is an essential one, and will require to be closely followed by your Council in dry seasons. Full power should be given to your medical and sanitary officers to occasionally inspect the reservoirs and filters, &c, in the public interest.

Cottage Baths.

In an industrial district like this better facilities for baths in all workmen's houses should be provided and the present prohibitive charges for such baths greatly reduced.

Table IV.—Causes of Death at All Ages during the Year 1908.

This table fairly well explains itself, and I do not see that I can say more than I have done on the particular diseases and causes of death that make it up, inasmuch as I have already alluded to most of them.

Table V.—Infant Mortality during the year 1908.

This is an important table, dealing with the causes of death among children under one year old. You will observe that respiratory diseases account for eight, or about one-third of the deaths. Your district being very small, it is not possible to say that any particular locality shows a greater infantile mortality than another, but it is possible to say that the deaths in infants occurred among the labouring classes, and I will here give the number of deaths in the various streets:—Albion-road, 1; Trosnant-street, 5; Gibson-square, 1; West-street, 3; High-street, 1; Nicholas-street, 1; West-street, 1; George-street, 1; Crumlin-street, 1; Chapel-lane, 2; Gwent-street, 4; North-road, 1; Coedcae-terrace, 1; total, 23. The infantile death-rate in importance cannot be over-estimated, as it constitutes the master key to all public health work. In 1906 the infantile death-rate of infants under one year of age to registered births in England and Wales was 133 per 1,000, as compared with 150, the mean proportion in the preceding 10 years.

Schools.

There has been no occasion to close the public elementary schools during the year. Each school has been disinfected twice.

Common Lodging-houses.

There are ten common lodging-houses. I have periodically inspected them, and your Inspector of Nuisances frequently visits each one. I find there is a great tendency for sick and disabled persons to locate themselves in a common lodging-house and get parochial relief. I have a great difficulty in convincing the lodging-house keepers that lodging-houses are not to be used as infirmaries or nursing homes.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Immediately a notification is received your Inspector proceeds at once to see that isolation is properly carried out, and a leaflet of instructions is left with the person having charge of the case. When the case is certified as free from infection the house is disinfected with Formaldehyde, or sulphur gas, and all infected bedding and articles of clothing taken to the steam disinfector and there treated.

Houses.

Four new houses have been erected during the year, bringing the number of inhabited houses in your area up to 1,322. This works out as 4·8 persons per house, according to the estimated population to the middle of 1908. So looking at it that way, it does not appear like overcrowding.

The Slaughter-houses

in this district have been kept under supervision, and no instance of unsound meat has been brought to my notice. I understand that the Council are still considering the erection of a public slaughter-house, which I hope may before long be realised.

Your Inspector of Nuisances reports for the year ending December 31st, 1908:—

Complaints received	..	..	..	23
Houses and premises inspected	..	..	..	729
„ „ re-inspected or visited	..	..	..	1593
Notices issued (intimations)...	..	..	..	179
„ „ (statutory)	..	..	..	42
„ „ (bye-law)	..	..	..	79

Matters dealt with.

Drains constructed	..	..	..	187
„ re-aired	..	..	..	23
„ ventilated	..	..	..	19
„ unstopped or cleansed..	..	..	..	65
„ disconnection traps fixed	..	..	..	15
Old drains partially or wholly abolished, cleansed and sealed off from sewer	..	..	..	114
Gully traps fixed	..	..	..	134
Defective surface traps abolished	..	..	..	57

Manholes built	64
„ repaired or cleaned.. ..	4
„ covers fixed or repaired	9
Fresh air inlets fixed or repaired	3
Drains tested	266
Scullery Sinks fixed or repaired	2
Water Closets constructed	25
„ „ abolished	12
„ „ repaired	34
„ „ ventilation or light improved	5
„ „ flushing apparatus fixed	40
„ „ flushing apparatus repaired	3
„ „ water supply provided	10
„ „ apparatus fixed	53
„ „ apparatus cleansed or repaired	28
Soil pipes fixed	5
„ „ ventilated	6
„ „ repaired	2
„ „ abolished	1
„ „ removed from inside to outside of building.. ..	2
Miscellaneous overcrowded abated	1
House roof repaired.. ..	18
Light or ventilation of buildtngs improved	3
Floors, doors, windows, or staircases repaired	63
Premises cleansed or lime washed	5
Yards, etc., paved or repaired.. ..	22
Offensive accumulations removed	7
Keeping of animals discontinued	9
Dung receptacles provided	1
Eaves, troughing, and down pipes fixed or repaired	54
Rainwater pipes disconnected from drain	14
Cesspits cleansed	4
„ abolished	2

Infectious Diseases and Disinfections.

Instructions received from M.O.	53
Certificates of infectious cases sent to school teachers.. ..	30
Houses in which infectious diseases occurred	51
Visits made to infected houses	253
Houses disinfected	41
Rooms disinfected	58
Articles of clothing, bedding, &c., disinfected	329

Common Lodging Houses.

Number of houses registered in the district	10
„ „ Lodgers registered for	154
„ „ Visits paid	65
„ „ Notices sent	11
„ „ Rooms—ticket and bye-law fixed	12

Inspection of Schools.

Number of schools in district	3
„ „ Visits	6
„ Disinfected and cleaned	

Slaughter-houses.

Number of licensed slaughter-houses	4
„ „ Visits to ditto	15

Factories and Workshops.

Number of factories and workshops on register ..	68
Number of factories and workshops registered during year	1
Number of workrooms in occupation	77
„ „ Persons found employed	197
„ „ Visits made	81
„ „ Workrooms measured	77
„ „ Notices issued <i>re</i> cleaning	2
„ „ „ „ <i>re</i> Overcrowding	1
„ „ „ „ <i>re</i> Sanitary defects	9

There has been no trouble with carrying out the Factories and Workshops Act, compliance being readily made with any suggestion for improvements. There are very few outworkers.

I beg to suggest that notices be placed in the Public Free Library warning the frequenters of that place not to spit about, and also drawing their attention to the danger of wetting their fingers from the lips or tongue in order to facilitate turning over pages.

The health of your district during the year 1908 has been, on the whole, good. In the earlier months of the year, influenza caused much sickness and trouble; also several small outbreaks during the year, and especially again in December, owing to the damp that month, influenzal colds increased the sickness and brought about no end of chest affection and throat troubles.

Your inspectors of nuisances, Mr Wilcox and his assistant, have been very attentive to their duties, and have given me every assistance.

I beg to ask you to consider the following recommendations:—

1. An isolation hospital.
2. A sewage scheme.
3. A dust and rubbish destructor.
4. The extinction of dwellings around the High-street and Gibson-square in the neighbourhood of “Mason’s Arms,” and the construction of proper lodging-houses.
5. A public slaughter-house.
6. A return of illegitimate births and deaths monthly.
7. Bye-laws to regulate the sale of milk before 10 a.m., and to avoid milk and milk-carts hanging about the town and district till 3 or 4 o’clock in the afternoon.

I am, Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

S. BUTLER MASON, M.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1908 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all ages.					
		Number.	*Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births Registered.	Number.	Rate.*			Number.	*Rate.
1898.	6,255	172	27·4	26	151·1	91	14·5		8	99	15·8
1899.	6,314	174	27·5	29	166·6	96	15·2		10	106	16·7
1900.	6,373	217	34·0	35	161·7	122	19·1		7	129	20·2
1901.	6,126	174	28·5	25	144·2	86	14·0		6	92	15·0
1902.	6,156	200	32·4	23	115·0	75	12·1		6	81	13·1
1903.	6,184	193	31·2	26	134·7	93	15·0		9	102	16·4
1904.	6,212	196	31·5	48	244·8	110	17·7		5	115	18·5
1905.	6,270	195	31·1	39	200·0	102	16·1		7	109	17·3
1906.	6,328	187	29·5	31	165·7	96	15·1		13	109	17·2
1907.	6,350	178	28·0	19	106·7	106	16·6		6	112	17·6
Averages for years 1898-1907.	6256·8	188·6	30·1	30·1	159·0	97·7	15·5		7·7	105·4	16·7
1908.	6382	198	31·1	23	116·1	86	13·4		9	95	14·8

*Rates caleulated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres
(exelusive of area covered by water.)

} 234

Total population at all ages, 5,842
Number of inhabited houses, 1,122
Average number of persons per house, 5·2

} At Census of 1901

TABLE III.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards
Smallpox							
Cholera							
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) .. 3..	.. 3..	.. 1..	.. 2..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Erysipelas .. ..	.. 5..	.....	.....	.....	.. 1..	.. 4..	.....
Scarlet fever ... ..	.. 43..	.. 1..	.. 9..	.. 33..	.....	.....	.. ..
Typhus fever							
Enteric fever .. ..	.. 3..	.....	.....	.....	.. 2..	.. 1..	.....
Relapsing fever							
Continued fever							
Puerperal fever .. ..	.. 2..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.. 2..	.....
Plague							
Totals .. ..	.. 56..	.. 2..	.. 11..	.. 33..	.. 3..	.. 7..	....

No Isolation Hospital.

Netten Radcliffe Smallpox Tent.

TABLE IV.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH	DEATHS OF "RESIDENTS" IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.						
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.
Small pox							
Measles							
Scarlet fever .. ..	.. 1..	.....	.....	.. 1..	.....	.....	.....
Whooping cough ..							
Diphtheria and mem- branous croup ..							
Croup							
Fever:							
Typhus							
Enteric							
Other continued ..							
Epidemic influenza ..							
Cholera							
Plague							
Diarrhœa .. ..	.. 4..	.. 4..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Enteritis .. ..	.. 1..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.. 1..	.....
Puerperal fever ..							
Erysipelas .. ..	.. 1..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.. 1..	.....
Other septic diseases							
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	.. 11..	.....	.....	.. 1..	.. 3..	.. 7..	.....
Other tuberculous di- seases .. ..	.. 1..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.. 1..	.....
Cancer, Malignant di- sease .. ..	.. 3..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.. 1..	.. 2..
Bronchitis .. ..	.. 7..	.. 1..	.. 1..	.....	.....	.. 1..	.. 4..
Pneumonia .. ..	.. 17..	.. 7..	.. 7..	.. 1..	.....	.. 2..	.....
Pleurisy							
Other diseases of Res- piratory organs ..							
Alcoholism .. ..	.. 4 ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.. 3..	.. 1..
Cirrhosis of liver }							
Venereal diseases ..							
Premature birth ..	.. 2..	.. 2..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Diseases and accidents of parturition ..	.. 2..	.. 1..	.....	.....	.....	.. 1..	.....
Heart diseases ..	.. 7..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.. 1..	.. 6..
Accidents .. ..	.. 1..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.. 1..	.....
Suicides							
All other causes ..	.. 33	.. 8..	.. 3..	.. 1..	.....	.. 8..	.. 13..
All causes	95..	.. 23..	.. 11..	.. 4..	.. 3..	.. 28..	.. 26..

TABLE V.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

CAUSE OF DEATH		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes	{ Certified .. Uncertified ..	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Infectious Diseases.	{ Small-pox .. Chicken-pox .. Measles .. Scarlet Fever .. Diphtheria: Croup .. Whooping Cough .. Diarrhoea, all forms .. Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, .. Gastro-enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
	{ Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal .. Catarrh .. Premature Birth .. Congenital Defects ..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
	{ Injury at Birth .. Want of Breast-milk .. Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ..	2	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
	{ Tuberculous Meningitis .. Tuberculous Peritonitis .. Tubes Mesenterica .. Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
	{ Erysipelas .. Syphilis .. Rickets .. Meningitis (not Tuberculous) .. Convulsions .. Bronchitis .. Laryngitis .. Pneumonia .. Suffocation, overlying .. Other Causes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Tuberculous Diseases.	{ Tuberculous Meningitis .. Tuberculous Peritonitis .. Tubes Mesenterica .. Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	{ Erysipelas .. Syphilis .. Rickets .. Meningitis (not Tuberculous) .. Convulsions .. Bronchitis .. Laryngitis .. Pneumonia .. Suffocation, overlying .. Other Causes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Other causes	{ Tuberculous Meningitis .. Tuberculous Peritonitis .. Tubes Mesenterica .. Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	{ Erysipelas .. Syphilis .. Rickets .. Meningitis (not Tuberculous) .. Convulsions .. Bronchitis .. Laryngitis .. Pneumonia .. Suffocation, overlying .. Other Causes ..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3
Other causes	{ Tuberculous Meningitis .. Tuberculous Peritonitis .. Tubes Mesenterica .. Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	{ Erysipelas .. Syphilis .. Rickets .. Meningitis (not Tuberculous) .. Convulsions .. Bronchitis .. Laryngitis .. Pneumonia .. Suffocation, overlying .. Other Causes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
		3	1	..	2	6	4	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	23

Population (estimated to middle of 1908)—6,382

Births in the year, 198.

Deaths in the year, 23.

Deaths from all causes at all ages, 95 (including deaths in Union Infirmary.)

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES (including Factory Laundries)	9	1	
WORKSHOPS (including Workshop Laundries) ..	68	11	
WORKPLACES (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	4		
TOTAL	81	12	

2—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	2	2		
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding	1	1		
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances	2	2		
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient	4	4		
Unsuitable or defective	3	3		
Not separate for sexes				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (S. 101)				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100)				
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)				
Total	12	12		

* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7, and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

 Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. has been adopted, and in factories and workshops employing males or females we have at least one closet for every 15 persons.

3—HOME WORK

Lists received from employers once in the year :—Wearing apparel making, &c. 2.	Outworkers, 4.
Notices served on occupiers as to keeping or sending lists 9.	
Inspections of outworker ' premises 4.	

4—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (S.131) at the end of 1908 :—				
Bakehouses				10
Bootmaking				6
Carpenter and Joiners				5
Cycle Repairing				1
Cabinet Makers				3
Dressmaking				6
Fish 'leaning and Curing				3
Millinery				6
Plumbers				4
Smiths				4
Saddlers				3
Sugar Bilers				4
Tin Worker				3
Tailors				7
Wheelwrights				3
Total number of workshops on Register				68